

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Awkward Dinner Conversation

1. In PENCIL and on your own notebook paper, write out a conversation using correct punctuation within dialogue. The conversation must have at least three different characters and contain an adverbial phrase, a prepositional phrase, an adjectival phrase, and/or an appositive phrase in **every** conversational tag.

*The title of your conversation is:* The Awkward Dinner Conversation

*The setting:* a formal dinner table

*Scenario:* One of your characters has a secret! (The secret and reveal must be school appropriate. You will get a ZERO if it is not!)

Your dialogue must be at least two handwritten pages or 210 words typed. Be sure to use proper punctuation and start a new paragraph every time the speaker changes.

### Phrase HELP!

**The following are defined as they apply to dialogue only:**

**Adverbial phrase-** describes **HOW** something was said or a motion that the conversationalist is doing

My sister *quickly screamed*, "HELP!"

"HELP!" my sister *quickly screamed*.

**Adjectival phrase-** describes the **PERSON** saying the dialogue

*Her face flushed and in her pink bathrobe*, my sister screamed, "HELP!"

"HELP!" my sister screamed, *her face flushed and in her pink bathrobe*.

**Appositive phrase-** describes the **PERSON** saying the dialogue, but singles them out from the rest by **narrowing down who they are**

My sister, *who lives in California*, yelled, "HELP!"

**Prepositional phrase-** describes **WHERE** the conversationalist is or where the conversationalist is placing something

*Standing in the middle of the street*, my sister yelled, "HELP!"

"HELP!" my sister yelled, *standing in the middle of the street*.

*Pelting the hairbrush down the street*, my sister yelled, "HELP!"

My sister yelled, "HELP!" *as she pelted the hairbrush down the street*.

2. Fill in the charts.

Animal Combos (Sound and Movement)	Sound(s) Animal Makes (Add Past Tense Verb Suffix)	Word(s) That Describes Animal's Movement
cat	mewed, meowed, purred	pounced, bounded, licked, leaped,

Animal	Sound(s) Animal Makes (Add Past Tense Verb Suffix)
owl	hooted

Animal	Word(s) That Describes Animal's Movement (past tense verb and adverb forms)
hen	Pecked/peckingly

3. You wrote your dinner conversation in pencil for a reason. Next, you will go back in your dialogue and erase your conversational tags and replace them by using your chart of animal sounds and movements.  
Example sentence:

"I have something to say," she said under her breath as she stood and put her hands on the top of the table.

Changed Example:

"I have something to say," she feistily mewed under her breath as she bounded to the top of the table.

(It would be interesting to see this character develop in a full dialogue. Maybe she would lick her plate or brush her hair at the dinner table. There are lots of ways we can have fun with this human character to try and make her seem a feline as possible. What can you think of?)

\*You are not changing your characters to animals. They will remain human. We are creating themed verbs and using figurative language to **give animal like characteristics to our human characters.**